

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Yasuhiko SHIINA et al.

Serial No : 10/573,324 (National Stage of PCT/JP2004/014457)

Filed : March 24, 2006 (I.A. Filed: September 24, 2004)

For : METHOD OF DETECTING OR DIFFERENTIATING
RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND METHOD OF
DETERMINING STAGE OF DISEASE OR DEGREE OF
DYSFUNCTION WITH REGARD TO RHEUMATOID
ARTHRITIS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby direct the Examiner's attention to the following documents cited in the International Search Report for International Application PCT/JP2004/014457 of which the above-referenced is the national stage:

- (1) JP 2000-105237 A, April 11, 2000, accompanied by an English language abstract thereof (provided by Patent Abstracts of Japan);
 - (2) JP 2000-249709 A, September 14, 2000;
 - (3) U.S. Patent No. 6,790,635 B1 (SEIKI), September 14, 2004;
- Applicants note that this document is a family member of document (2);

- (4) JP 2001-220354 A, August 14, 2001, accompanied by an English language abstract thereof (provided by Patent Abstracts of Japan);
- (5) JP 2000-146980 A, May 26, 2000;
- (6) EP 1 111 387 A1, June 27, 2001; Applicants note that this document is a family member of document (5);
- (7) WO 98/49559 A1, November 5, 1998;
- (8) EP 0 999 447 A1, May 10, 2000; Applicants note that this document is a family member of document (7);
- (9) U.S. Patent No. 6,461,827 B1 (ODA et al.), October 8, 2002; Applicants note that this document is a family member of documents (7) and (8);
- (10) WO 02/08756 A1, January 31, 2002;
- (11) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0190678 A1 (MASE et al.), October 9, 2003; Applicants note that this document is a family member of document (10).

Applicants further direct the Examiner's attention to the following documents cited in the present application:

- (12) WO 97/16461 A1, May 9, 1997; Applicants note that this document is cited and discussed at page 9, line 27 of the present application;
- (13) U.S. Patent No. 6,605,705 B1 (ODA et al.), August 12, 2003; Applicants note that this document is a family member of document (12);

- (14) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0038314 A1 (ODA et al.), February 26, 2004; Applicants note that this document is a family member of documents (12) and (13).

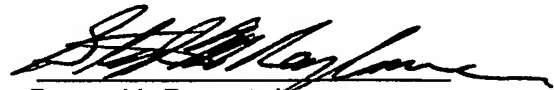
Copies of the above-listed documents (with the exception of U.S. patents and U.S. patent applications) and the International Search Report for International Application PCT/JP2004/014457. are enclosed together with a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the next official communication.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to partially waive the requirements under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (a)(2)(i) and (iii), copies of the U.S. patents and U.S. patent applications cited above are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants note that no fee is necessary to ensure consideration of this statement. However, if an Office Action has issued and is crossing in the mail with this statement, the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0089 any fee necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted materials.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Yasuhiko SHIINA et al.



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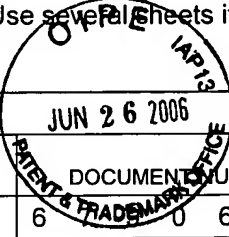
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FORM PTO-1449

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(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant
Yasuhiko SHIINA et al.Filing Date
March 24, 2006Group
Not Yet Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6 4 6 1 8 2 7	09/14/04	SEIKI et al.			
	6 4 6 1 8 2 7	10/08/02	ODA et al.			
2003/	0 1 9 0 6 7 8	10/09/03	MASE et al.			
	6 6 0 5 7 0 5	08/12/03	ODA et al.			
2004/	0 0 3 8 3 1 4	02/26/04	ODA et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
2000	- 1 0 5 2 3 7	04/11/00	JAPAN			
2000	- 2 4 9 7 0 9	09/14/00	JAPAN			
2001	- 2 2 0 3 5 4	08/14/01	JAPAN			
2000	- 1 4 6 9 8 0	05/26/00	JAPAN			
	1 1 1 1 3 8 7	06/27/01	E.P.O.			
9	8 / 4 9 5 5 9	11/05/98	W.I.P.O.			
	0 9 9 9 4 4 7	05/10/00	E.P.O.			
0	2 / 0 8 7 5 6	01/31/02	W.I.P.O.			
9	7 / 1 6 4 6 1	05/09/97	W.I.P.O.			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

1	English Language Abstract of JP 2000-105237.
2	English Language Abstract of JP 2001-220354.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.